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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is provided for correcting lightness of an image using a multiscale retinex. Lightness of a
5   subject pixel of an original image is corrected using a convolution operation of a surround function and surround pixels with respect to the subject pixel of the original image, and the convolution operation is performed over a plurality of scales. The surround function has a
10   simplified model such that a value of the surround function is changed in a stepwise way along two axes orthogonal to each other.